

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00544 201901Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 SS-15

INR-07 INRE-00 SP-02 /044 W

-----201906Z 118565 /47

O 201545Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3840

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0544

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, BL

SUBJECT: US PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA

1. NEWS OF VISIT OF USG TEAM TO BOLIVIA TO INVESTIGATE US PRISONERS IS CIRCULATING AMONG THE PRISONERS AND WITHIN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. APPARENTLY PARENTS OF SOME OF THE PRISONERS TELEPHONED OVER LAST WEEK END TO INFORM THEM OF THE VISIT. VISITORS TO THE JAIL HAVE BROUGHT THE NEWS INTO THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY AT LEAST.

2. THIS MORNING I HAD BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF INTERIOR ABOUT HIS TRIP TO THE US. IN VIEW OF THE CIRCULATION OF THE NEWS OF THE TEAM VISIT, I THOUGHT IT DESIRABLE TO MENTION TO HIM INFORMALLY THAT SUCH A VISIT WAS BEING CONTEMPLATED. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT APPEARS TO BE A VERY DELICATE MATTER RAISING QUESTIONS OF BOLIVIAN SOVEREIGNTY. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION IN BOLIVIA COULD ACCEPT AN OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE'S EXAMINING THE INTERNAL LEGAL PROCESSES OF THE BOLIVIAN COURT SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT HE HAD JUST TOLD AMBASSADOR VANCE, AS HE HAD TOLD ME, THAT  
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THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA IS FORMING ITS OWN STUDY GROUP TO ANALYZE EACH US PRISONER'S CASE. THE MINISTER SAID THE FIRST MEETING OF HIS GROUP WILL BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON AND THE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACCELERATE JUDICIAL PROCESSES IN LIGHT OF THE NEW LAW.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT YET HAVE OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS

WITH THE REVELANT DETAILS OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TEAM, ITS SCOPE OF WORK, AND ITS COMPOSITION, BUT THAT WHEN I DID RECEIVE SUCH A MESSAGE I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE AUDIENCE WITH HIM. HE READILY AGREED TO RECEIVE ME AND TO CONSIDER A FORMAL MESSAGE BUT HE REPEATED HIS OPINION THAT SUCH A VISIT MAY BE VIEWED AS AN VIOLATION OF THE BOLIVIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

4. WHILE THE MINISTER'S REMARKS MUST BE TREATED AS INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY, THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN WEIGHT IN YOUR CONSIDERATIONS OF THE USG TEAM VISIT. IF THE GOB ANALYSIS IS CONDUCTED PROMPTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, IT MIGHT PRECLUDE THE NEED FOR THE VISIT.

STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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